UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/808
20 October 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 OCTOBER 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In my last report on the situation in Tajikistan (S/1997/686), I stated that the extent to which the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) would be able to carry out the additional tasks assigned to it in the inter-Tajik agreements would be contingent on measures taken to ensure that its personnel could perform their duties unhindered and that they would be reasonably safe. I also mentioned that I had explored with the parties the possibility that they themselves might jointly provide security for United Nations personnel with a combined force comprised of personnel from the Tajik army and from the United Tajik Opposition (UTO).

I am now in receipt of letters from President Rakhmonov and Mr. Nuri, the leader of the UTO, confirming their agreement to the formation of this joint security unit. The unit would have as its main task to provide security, including armed escorts, for UNMOT personnel and transports mainly in the area from Dushanbe to Komsomolabad, which is considered to pose the greatest risk. UNMOT is in touch with the parties to work out the operational details.

I should be grateful if you would convey this information to the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

97-27933 (E) 201097